



Featuring the award-winning Live at Massey Hall films, these free films offer insight into the Canadian music scene, with behind the scenes interviews with artists, stellar performances, plus short curriculum connected guides with pre- and post-viewing activities for select films. Activities can be completed synchronously or asynchronously, in-school or at-home.

*Suggested age: Secondary school, some concerts contain explicit language. See specific details, notes, and highlights in the "Concert Highlights" section below.*

## LISA LEBLANC



Platinum-selling artist Lisa LeBlanc (who also writes under her alter-ego, Belinda) is a singer, songwriter, guitarist/banjo player, and electrifying performer. She has been nominated for and won numerous awards, with top notable nominations including a 2017 JUNO Award and a 2017 Polaris Music Prize. She's known for her music consisting of tales from everyday love, friendship, and heartbreak. Her music is self-described as "Folk-trash." Lisa is a life-long musician from jamming with her uncles in her small hometown of Rosaireville, New Brunswick, to the stage of Massey Hall. She shows in her performance that this is what she loves and what she is meant to do. Lisa currently resides in Montreal, but when she goes home, she goes to her roots and has a jam session with her old guitar teacher. As a person of Acadian ancestry, she sings in English and French and uses folk tunes relevant to her culture and personal experience.

## TALKING POINTS

1. Lisa LeBlanc opens the show with whistling. What does this remind you of? Have you heard this musical technique used in other songs/films/other?
2. Lisa LeBlanc grew up making and playing music in community settings with her family. Have you participated in community music (school band, music with family, music with friends, drum circle, ukulele circle, etc.)? What was that experience like, and what do you think you gained from it?
3. Lisa LeBlanc sings in both French and English, which relates to her Acadian ancestry (an Acadian is a descendant of the French who settled in Acadia -New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, or PEI- during the 17th and 18th centuries). How do you think culture influences music?
4. In this performance, Lisa sings a folk song with a distinct unknown origin. Do you know of any other folk songs? Whether it be Canadian or of another origin? What are the songs about, and what instruments do they use?

## CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS AND NOTES

0-1:00	Whistling Musically
03:08, 06:16, 07:35, 13:50	rocking out on banjo
22:30-22:53	Talking about the personal significance of this Massey Hall performance



## ACTIVITY 1

Search for five Acadian singers. Compare and contrast the music. What are similar/different themes used? What instruments are used? Name unique stylistic choices used? Discuss in groups.

## ACTIVITY 2

Lisa opens her show with a soft and slow whistling intro to a faster-paced song. Find a song you like and create a whistled intro for that piece that contrasts the dynamics. If you don't know how to whistle, try humming!

## ACTIVITY 3

Lisa LeBlanc plays what she describes as "Folk-Trash" Music. From her interest in metal music to her experience with folk music, she has created a new genre. Create your unique genre of music! Combine two genres of music that you haven't heard together before and create or describe a song. Give reasoning as to what the combination of genres should sound like and why.

## ACTIVITY 4

In the song "5748 km," Lisa takes a sweeter approach to her music, singing about heartbreak and everyday love. Music about very personal feelings can be an essential part of a musician's art. Dealing with emotions through music can be therapeutic and healing. Try and find a moment in your life that is deeply emotional and write a song about it. If it's too personal, the lyrics can be kept private, but share the melody with a classmate and see what feelings it evokes for them.



## STAFF INTERVIEW Vanessa Smith, *Education & Outreach Manager*

- *What is your role at Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall?*

I'm the Education & Outreach Manager – this means I oversee all of our education and community engagement programming, including tasks like managing staff, strategic planning, budgeting, working with other departments, and sometimes running the programs themselves.

- *How did you get into the world of Education & Outreach?*

I've always been interested in both the arts and education. As a high school student, I felt myself torn when trying to choose a career path between the arts and teaching. In grade 11, my drama teacher took us to the Stratford Festival. We saw three performances and participated in a school workshop. When I saw the facilitator onstage for the workshop, it was like a lightbulb went off – that's it, that's how I can combine my two passions together!

- *Tell us more about your education, career path, and interests?*

After that epiphany at the Stratford Festival, I pursued a degree in Drama in Education & Community at the University of Windsor. This degree program helped us to learn how to work the arts into other curriculum areas, and involved both community and classroom placements. When I graduated, I decided to teach English overseas and spent two years in Japan, including a year teaching at a school that focused on learning English through drama. When I returned, I got a job in the communications department at the Canadian Opera Company. After about a year, I moved into their Education department and managed school programs for almost seven years before getting this job. Outside of work, it's no surprise that I love going to plays and concerts; but I also spend a lot of time on video games and fitness.

- *What has been your favourite show to go to at Massey, and why?*

My favourite is probably my first – I saw Stars at their first headlining performance at Massey Hall, shortly after I moved to Toronto. I didn't understand the significance of the Hall then, I was just excited to see my favourite band. But their excitement fed the audience, who fed their excitement back at the band, and just by being there I began to understand what this moment meant to them, and what a milestone Massey Hall is for Canadian performers – a real sign that they've "made it". It was a magical night.

- *Who do you work with at the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall?*

Everybody! The Education department does a bit of everything, so we talk to everyone – when our programming takes place in the Halls, we work with everyone you work with to put on a show – Bookings, Front of House, Food and Beverage, Production, Events, and Building Services. We work with finance to pay our teaching artists, and our other bills. We're part of the Programming department, and work closely with them to help develop education programs that work with existing mainstage performances. We work with Artist Development to help their artists tie into our programs and develop their own skills and audiences. Marketing and PR help us promote our programming and let others know about the work we're doing in the community. Development and Sponsorship help fund the work we're doing. We work with box office to create opportunities for youth and community groups to see our shows. We're very connected to everyone at the Corporation.





## STAFF INTERVIEW *Vanessa Smith, Education & Outreach Manager*

- *What is some advice you have for someone interested in pursuing a career in Education & Outreach?*

Make sure you really love it – arts education is a wonderful career and a welcoming community, but it's often long hours and generally means you're working for non-profits, so you're unlikely to get rich in arts education. But you're going to make amazing connections and truly make an impact on others, which is often worth a lot more than monetary wealth. Get involved in the arts now and learn as much as you can, so that you'll know how to teach that to others later. If you're interested in admin, look for internships and volunteer opportunities with arts organizations – in Education & Outreach, you do a little bit of everything, so it's important to have a wide foundation of skills to keep building on.

- *What is your favourite part of your job?*

The people! I meet really amazing people at my job, from my coworkers across the corporation to the amazing teaching artists that we hire for our programs, from the artists on stage to the participants I watch grow through our programming. I've been able to really build our programming from the ground up here, and see so many people benefit from it.

- *What is your favourite memory of the Halls?*

Our first Lullaby Project concert. This program brings songwriters and new parents together to write a personalized lullaby. Bringing those new moms to Massey Hall to perform their songs for an audience was an amazing experience, for all of them as well as for me – I got really emotional watching how far they'd come since our first songwriting session.

- *Are there any other comments you would like to share with student readers?*

There are so many opportunities to get involved in music and the arts, whether you're in Toronto or another part of the country. Get involved, make some music, meet some new friends – the effects will last a lifetime.

